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ANTENUPTIAL EXAMINATION OF MALES FOR VENEREAL INFECTION.

An Alabama law, approved February 19, 1919, requires that all male persons making application for license to marry shall be examined to ascertain whether or not they are venereally infected. The law, which is very similar to the Wisconsin statute,¹ reads as follows:

SECTION 1. All male persons making application for license to marry shall at any time within 15 days prior to such application be examined as to the existence or non-existence in such person of any venereal disease, and it shall be unlawful for the judge of probate of any county to issue a license to marry to any person who fails to present and file with such judge of probate a certificate setting forth that such person is free from venereal diseases so nearly as can be determined by a thorough examination and by the application of the recognized clinical and laboratory test of scientific search, when in the discretion of the examining physician such clinical and laboratory tests are necessary. Such certificate shall be made by a licensed physician, shall be filed with the application for license to marry, and shall read as follows, to wit: I, (name of physician) being a legally licensed physician, do certify that I have this day of, 19.., made a thorough examination of (name of applicant); and believe him to be free from all venereal diseases. (name of physician). That no marriage shall be entered into in any manner whatsoever without the male party shall have first submitted to said antenuptial examination and having obtained a certificate from such physician of his freedom from said diseases.

SEC. 2. Such examiners shall be physicians duly licensed to practice in this State. The health officer of any county shall, upon request, make the necessary examination and issue such certificate, if the same can be properly issued, without charge to the applicant. The charge for such an examination shall in no case exceed \$5.

SEC. 3. Any judge of probate who shall unlawfully issue a license to marry [to] any male person who fails to present and file with the probate judge a certificate required by section 1 of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall upon conviction be fined not less than \$50 nor more than \$100, or be sentenced to hard labor for the county not exceeding six months, one or both in the discretion of the court or judge trying the case.

SEC. 4. Any physician who shall knowingly and wilfully make any false statement in the certificate provided for in section 1 of this act, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100, or sentenced for not more than six months' hard labor for county.

¹ The first Wisconsin statute was ch. 738, laws of 1913 (Pub. Health Repts. Reprint 264, p. 504). This statute was held valid in *Peterson v. Widule*, 147 N. W. 666 (Reprint 342, p. 57), but by ch. 525, laws of 1915 (Reprint 338, p. 574), certain sections of the original act were repealed and the other sections amended. In 1917 the law was further amended by ch. 212 (Reprint 450, p. 30), and an additional law, ch. 483 (Reprint 450, p. 31), enacted.

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